

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 KHARTO 01945 291104Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /099 W
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R 291016Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7226

S E C R E T KHARTOUM 1945

DEPARTMENT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: MOPS, SU, ET
SUBJECT: ERITREA DEVELOPMENTS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. AYAM QUOTING ERITREAN SOURCES REPORTS THAT MAJOR
BATTLE TOOK PLACE SUNDAY APRIL 23 NEAR BARENTU. ACCORDING
THIS REPORT LARGE ETHIOPIAN FORCE TRIED TO BREAK THROUGH
ERITREAN LINES AROUND THE TOWN. HOWEVER, ETHIOPIAN FORCES
WERE DRIVEN BACK WITH 600 CASUALTIES AND 35 CAPTURED
INCLUDING SOME ARMY OFFICERS.

2. IN OTHER REPORTING ON ERITREAN SITUATION, AYAM REPORTS
MASSING AT HUMERA OF 10,000 ETHIOPIAN AND CUBAN TROOPS.
CORRESPONDENT FROM KASSALA WRITES THAT 2,000 ARE CUBAN AND
THAT TROOPS ARE PREPARING WIDE RANGING ATTACK ON ERITREA
END UNCLASSIFIED

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3. INFORMATION CONTAINED PARA 1 IS CONSISTENT WITH REPORTS
REACHING EMBASSY IN OTHER CHANNELS AND THEREFORE WE
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ASSUME IT ACCURATE. SUDANESE OFFICIALS AND PRESS
CONTINUE LINE THAT ETHIOPIANS SUPPORTED BY CUBANS AND
SOVIETS ARE MASSING NEAR ERITREA IN PREPARATION FOR
MAJOR OFFENSIVE. SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER TOLD DATT
APRIL 29 THAT SHOULD ETHIOPIANS ATTACK IN KASSALA AREA
MILITARY TARGETS WILL BE DEFENDED. HOWEVER, SUDANESE
MILITARY DO NOT REPEAT NOT INTEND DEFEND CIVILIAN CENTERS.

THEREFORE IF ETHIOPIANS ATTACK CIVILIAN TARGETS SUDANESE
WILL RESPOND DIPLOMATICALLY, PRESUMABLY IN U.N. END
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BERGUS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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